



March 3, 2004

West Warwick man is charged with Cranston bank robbery

A federal grand jury has charged **David F. Houlihan**, of West Warwick, with a November bank robbery at a Citizens Bank branch on Oaklawn Avenue in Cranston. Cranston Police arrested Houlihan, 43, of 655 Providence Street, about a week after the robbery.

The Office of the United States Attorney, Kenneth W. Kaiser, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Cranston Police chief Michael A. Chalek jointly announced a one-count indictment, which was returned today in U.S. District Court, Providence.

The indictment alleges that, on November 22, Houlihan, by force, violence, and intimidation, took money from a bank employee at the Citizens Bank, 965 Oaklawn Avenue.

An indictment is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Upon conviction, the statutory maximum penalty for bank robbery is 25 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Federal sentencing is determined on the basis of guidelines that take into consideration such factors as the specific nature of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

Houlihan has been held in state custody since his arrest on November 29. He will be brought into U.S. District Court for arraignment.

Cranston Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation investigated the case. The Rhode Island State Police provided assistance leading to Houlihan's arrest. Assistant U.S. Attorney Zechariah Chafee is prosecuting the case.

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